

S/N 10/032,700
Ref. No.: 659-911
Client Ref. No.: K-C 17154

Remarks About the Claims:

“Allowable” Claims:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner’s statement that claims 7, 8, 25, 26, 43 and 44 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 7 (see claim 1), 8, 25 (see claim 21), 26, 43 and 44 (see claim 29) in independent form. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 8-10, 12-15, 21-24, 26-37 are in condition for allowance.

Rejoinder of Claims:

Applicants further note, as previously set forth in Applicants’ Response to Restriction Requirement mailed May 4, 2004, that withdrawn claims 38-40 should now be rejoined since the product claims are allowable (MPEP 806.05(i) and 821.04(b)). Applicants have amended claim 38 to include the same limitations as claim 1, and ask that the Examiner now rejoin claims 38-40.

Claims 16-20:

Finally, Applicants have rewritten claim 42 in independent form (see claim 16). The Examiner apparently has not considered the limitations of claim 42, purportedly since they are directed to a function of the fastener member rather than the structure thereof. Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 16 recites that “said fastener member does not engage directly or indirectly in any way said garment side of either of said first or second body panels.”

Applicants respectfully submit that this recitation is a structural limitation, albeit a negative one. In particular, it defines where the fastener is located, just like the recitation of the fastener member being attached to the body side of the first and second body panels (see claim 16). Both recitations are structural, and define the relationship between the fastener member and the body panels. Since, as set forth in the prior response, Sauer discloses that at least a portion of the fastener is engaged

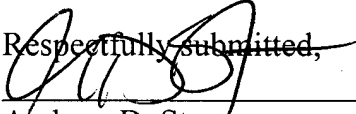
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with a garment side of the body panel 22, claim 16 distinguishes over Sauer and should also be allowed on the next Office Action.

Conclusion:

Applicants previously paid for 43 claims including five (5) independent claims. This application presently has 38 claims pending, including eight (8) independent claims if claim 38 is rejoined. Accordingly, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to deduct the additional claims fees from Deposit Account 23-1925. Any questions concerning this Response and Amendment should be directed to the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4713.

Date: July 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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